



# THE FAS LETTER

December 1967



### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE...

This year of 1967 has seen more than its share of problems around the world. As the year draws to an end and we celebrate the Christmas Season, let us look ahead with hope that 1968 will bring progress toward peace between nations and contentment in the hearts of men.

To the members of the FAS family abroad, who represent USDA with distinction around the world, we send our wish for happiness and good health throughout the Holiday Season.

Raymond A. Ioanes  
Administrator





Members of the Embassy and business community in Rome pose with Christmas stockings and decorations which the women made for sale at the annual Red Cross bazaar. Representing the office of Agricultural Attache Bob Tetro are Mrs. Bob Tetro, seated right; Mrs. Glenn W. Tussey, standing fifth from left; Mrs. Paul Danyluk, fourth from right; Mrs. James K. Freckmann, far right. Mrs. Frederick Reinhardt, wife of the ambassador, is standing fifth from the right.

## CHRISTMAS TREE CUSTOM SPREADS AROUND WORLD

Attache Doug Crawford writes from Spain that that country's principal Christmas symbol is the "Nacimientos" reproduction of Bethlehem with clay figures representing Christ, Mary and Joseph, the Three Wise Men and Herod.

"The putting up of Christmas trees is not generally practiced... (the) custom is slowly becoming more widespread due to foreign influence, but only in addition to the 'Nacimiento'," he says.

Doug's letter sent your editor to the USDA Library and elsewhere for some delving into Christmas tree history, with the following results:

The tree, which has become big business in recent years (Americans alone spend over \$50 million annually on trees), dates back to 17th century Germany.

Daniel Foley in his history entitled The Christmas Tree said the fashion of using the Christmas tree as decoration for the festive season first captured the fancy of the well-to-do tradespeople in German cities and towns, though the peasants were slow to adopt this custom.

As the tree became more popular, the Christmas markets in the large German towns and the shops in smaller towns became well known. The stores held every conceivable kind of horn, drum, doll, game and stuffed toy.

The Christmas after his first son was born in 1841, Prince Albert of England entertained his children with an elaborate Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. In 1848, the Illustrated London News featured the newly introduced custom in its Christmas Supplement with a full-page engraving of the tree. The custom spread throughout England quickly due to the influence of royal families and the Germans who visited England and brought along their custom.

The tree spread to America as early as colonial times but it was not until the mid-19th century that the custom became widespread. Franklin Pierce introduced the Christmas tree to the White House during his time of office in 1856. In 1923 Calvin and Grace Coolidge lit the first national Christmas tree, a large spruce from Vermont. Coolidge encouraged the custom of the Christmas tree in the home.

In Scandinavia, according to Foley, the practice of decorating the Christmas tree has evolved from the ancient custom of setting up Christmas sheaves for the birds. Sheaves or stooks of grain were tied on a long pine or spruce pole and stuck into the ground for the birds at Christmas. In Stockholm there were such trees as early as the middle of the 17th century. The sheaves were sometimes fashioned in the form of a cross--thus the Christmas cross. Although the tree as





*Maria Teresa Trione, 6, daughter of Mrs. Teresa Trione of the Rome attache office, poses in front of the 1966 Christmas tree in the Trione home. Maria looks forward each Christmas to a double celebration since Italian children celebrate the holiday December 25 when Santa comes and January 6, the Epiphany, when the Befana (the good witch) brings yet more gifts. Mrs. Trione has worked in the Rome office for five years.*



*Winners of the Children's animal showmanship contest at the 1967 Cremona International Dairy Show in Italy are presented with a western outfit from the U.S. Exhibit staff. Presenting the award are Silvano Bottoni, secretary of the international dairy show; and Duane I. Nelson, exhibit director. The animal showmanship contest, one of the main attractions of the dairy show for the local Cremonese, is open to any child under five. This year youngsters exhibited cats, dogs, birds and even goats.*

cont. from p. 3

it is now used did not become widely known in Sweden until the second half of the 19th century, there are records of a tree as early as 1741. Jenny Lind, the singer who brought world fame to her native Sweden, helped popularize the Christmas tree. Miss Lind was known to have decorated a tree for Christmas even when she entertained on concert tour. It was a Christmas night shared around a tree with Jenny Lind which inspired the Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen to write "The Fir Tree."

The tree was introduced to France by Duchess Helene of Orleans who set up a tree in the Tuileries in 1840. The German Army celebrated Christmas at Notre Dame Cathedral in 1870, and after that the custom became widespread.

In France, as in Italy, Spain and Portugal, the Christmas celebration has long emphasized the crib with its figures. In these countries, homes are more often decorated with greenery around a manger scene than with decorative trees.

In Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Holland and other countries associated with German culture, the tree became popular. In the various countries, the tree took on a unique look representative of the decorations used in different locals.

In Japan, toys have long been used at the New Year to decorate branches of trees and later to be distributed among the children. The custom of using the tree at Christmas was introduced by American missionaries and accepted by Japanese.

The observance of Christmas in the tropics as well as in Australia and New Zealand, is kept traditional by the use of greens native to various countries and local decorations.

The Christmas Tree today is steeped in the tradition of previous generations but lives anew each year to symbolize the spirit of Christmas.





*Dr. Bullock with the Rev. Stanley Moore, present director of El Vergel.*

## FORMER ATTACHE DEVOTES LIFE TO AGRICULTURE

When Western Hemisphere Area Officer Dale Farringer paid a supervisory visit in November to Chile, a highlight of his stay was his meeting with former attache Dillman Bullock.

Most present attache personnel won't remember Dr. Bullock. The agricultural educator, who served as agricultural trade commissioner to Buenos Aires (former name for attache) from 1920-23, is believed to be the first agricultural attache in the Western Hemisphere. At present he is probably also the oldest living former attache.

Dr. Bullock, a Michigan native born in 1878, has lived most of the past 89 years in Latin America. He started his agricultural career in 1902 by going out as agricultural missionary to Temuco, Chile, from the Anglican Church.

After his three years with FAS, Dr. Bullock went back to serving agriculture through the church. In 1924 he became Director of the Methodist affiliated agricultural school, El Vergel, in Angol, Chile. The school, which covers about 5,000 acres, receives its income from the sale of ornamental plants. He has been associated with El Vergel, a school for high school age Chilean youngsters comparable to the American vocational school, since 1924. In 1947, at the age of 69, he became director emeritus and lightened his workload but continued to teach. Since 1959, he has remained director emeritus continuing his association with the school to which he has dedicated much of his life.

Dr. Bullock and his wife, 99, will spend this Holiday Season in Angol. The Bullocks are a midwestern American couple who have found a home in Chile.

*Karen, 4, and John, 2½, help parents Shack and Birgitta Pitcher load car trunk with packages to be sent back home to folks in the States for Christmas. Shack, agricultural officer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, says that the Holiday Season starts in October for the Pitchers with shopping for gifts to be mailed home to relatives. The Pitchers plan to spend Christmas Day, 1967, at home. Guests in the Pitcher home will be served "glog," a warm Scandinavian drink, which Shack and Birgitta found to be popular last year with Brazilian guests, despite the un-Scandinavian weather.*



# ROAMING AROUND

Paul Taggart will be back home for Christmas in Washington after completing a five-week tour of the Far East on December 22. Paul visited Tokyo, Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok and Rawalpindi on the post inspection tour and spent two days of leave in Bonn renewing acquaintance with friends from his attache days in Germany.

Brice Meeker has returned to The Hague after a brief consultation period in Washington in early December.

David Schoonover, assistant attache in Moscow, left the Soviet Union December 18 for Washington reassignment. He was reunited with his wife and child who arrived in the States October 31.

Print Hudson returned from Bern to Washington in early November. His new assignment is as backstopper for the Tokyo '68 show in the Trade Fairs Division.

Ernest Koenig will be on home leave until February from the U.S. Mission to the European Economic Community, Brussels.

Henry Baehr, attache to Austria, is visiting in the United States on a 21-day excursion on annual leave for the Holidays.

Ross Packard arrived in Bombay as agricultural officer December 1 after serving as assistant attache in New Delhi. Former agricultural officer Bob Evans has returned to the States for home leave and reassignment.

Philippine attache Lee Paramore left Manila December 8 to return to Washington for reassignment. Fred Traeger, newly appointed attache to Manila, arrived at his post December 4 after home leave.

Paul Quintus, attache in Paris, is on home leave visiting in Washington and in Iowa.

Alice Aurelio has returned to FAS from a stint as a homemaker to be secretary to Paul Taggart, area officer for Far East and South Asia.

Roger Euler arrived the first week in December as attache in Moscow. Roger, a former attache to Warsaw, has spent the past two years as a programmer of agricultural commodities under PL 480.

Anthony Cruik, a veteran of USDA's Kennedy Round Team, will be going to Geneva in mid-January to the U.S. Mission to the European Offices of the U.N. and other International Organizations. Oleta Brame, former overseas secretary in Rabat, will go to Geneva as Tony's secretary. Oleta leaves the Secretary's office where she works for Gene Olson.

John DeCourcy arrived in Hamburg in late November to succeed Al Trick as agricultural officer. It's a welcome change for John, whose first field assignment--to Cairo--was rudely interrupted by Mideast events only weeks after his arrival.

Attache Clayton Whipple returned to Brussels the first week in December after home leave in Washington.

Attache Elmer Hallowell arrived back in Tokyo in mid-November after home leave. He was in time to preside over important Tokyo exhibit construction contract letting in early December.

New Zealand attache Gordon Loveless arrived in Washington in mid-December for home leave and consultation.

(more)



cont. from p. 6

Gordon Nicks formerly of the Cotton Division, will leave Washington early in January for Tokyo to serve as assistant attache. This assignment, Gordon's first overseas post, follows an intensive 5-month language course in Japanese which Gordon finished. Gordon is the first FAS employee to be trained in Japanese before undertaking an assignment.

Mary Ellen Hazucha, attache secretary in Bogota, has returned to Washington for reassignment.

Martin Schubkegel, assistant attache in Buenos Aires, spent Thanksgiving with his family in New Jersey and returned to the post after a short visit. Attache Joe Dodson and family left Buenos Aires in early December for home leave in Iowa. The Dodsons will return to post in February.

Bill Rodman, fresh from a year in the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, arrived with his wife and daughter in Mexico in mid-October to take over the attache post from John Scholl. John returned to Washington for duty in General Sales Manager's office.

*Mrs. Alvera Arizpe poses with the office Christmas tree in the attache office in The Hague. Alvera, the American secretary of the attache office, is the wife of Master Sergeant Raul Arizpe who is attached to U.S. Air Force section of the Military Assistance Group in The Hague.*



*When the families of Bhornchai Kunalai and Tammanoon Premsoontorn paid a recent visit to the Bangkok zoo, children from both families paused to pose in front of a topiary bush, the nearest thing in Thailand, possibly, to a Christmas snowman. Youngsters left to right: Gamjornchai, Bhornchai's son; Nappadol, Tam's son; Naraporn, Bhornchai's daughter; and Taratorn, Tam's son.*



*A Malayian child smilingly cuddles her doll for the photographer. Wong Ah Peng is the daughter of Wong Ah Lan, housekeeper of Kuala Lumpur's Attache Robert E. Adcock. Ah Peng's treasured toy is similar to the hundreds of dolls which will be found under Christmas trees by little girls all around the world.*



# The Gifts of Christmas

To all our far-flung attachés,  
Here's wishing happy holidays:  
By all of us you're being sung to,  
In all the places you've been flung to.  
We carolers who stand here singing  
Are those up front who did the flinging--  
Who sent you off, and cheer you on,  
And mind the store while you are gone.

Ioanes (Ray) and Lennartson (Roy)  
Are sounding off to wish you joy,  
While Davis (Dave) and Minor (Art)  
Each takes his own harmonious part.  
Those other voices that you hear,  
Rending with song the atmosphere,  
Are Burl, Tim, Paul, Afif, and Dale,  
As Mac and Amanda pour wassail.

To each of you and to your staffs,  
May Christmas bring both loot and laughs  
And all the kinds of celebrations  
Appropriate to both your nations.  
Dodson and Williams (both named Joe),  
High and tall may your Yule tree grow.  
Lege and Traeger (both named Fred),  
Green be your pine, and your holly red.

A couple of Henrys, Buckardt and Baehr;  
Bryan and Varney (a Harry pair);  
Bobs, be they Anderson, Adcock, or Tetro;  
We'll set the rhythm; you let your feet go.  
Wenmohs, DeCourcy, McDonald--relax,  
The word is good for all Johns or Jacks.  
All of you Richards--Roberts and Bell,  
Smith, Schwartz, and Welton--we wish you  
well.

Both of you Jameses--Lankford and  
Boulware--  
Hold out the joy glass, we'll fill it fuller.  
Each of you Williams--Rodman, Bowser--  
Here is a toast, sir: cheers, here's how, sir!

Minneman, Quintus, Ferree (all Pauls),  
May plenty of mistletoe deck your halls.  
Ortega, Winberg (Carlos and Carl),  
May your tinsel drape with never a snarl.

Ernest Koenig and Clayton Whipple,  
We hope your holiday cheer comes triple;  
Rowan (Wally) and Pitcher (Shack),  
May Santa come with a bulging sack;  
A jolly Christmas right from the start,  
Montgomery (Byron) and Rollefson (Art);  
Steve Stephanides and Ogren (Ken),  
Hold out your glasses and tell us when.

We wish Ross Packard and Howard Akers  
Great prestige among merrymakers;  
May Hougen (Volorus) and Nelson (Duane)  
Have only pleasure and never pain;  
And Hallowell (Elmer) and Sheppard (Dan)  
Be as contented as anyone can,  
And while we're talking of Christmas days,  
Let us describe them in lots of ways:

For Brice K. Meeker, a very merry;  
A very special for Shelden (Gerry);  
For Rado Kinzhuber, just the best;  
For Dalton Wilson, the joyfulest;  
For Motz, Loveless, Phillipsen (Don,  
Gordon, Bud),  
A blowout that's really a bang, no dud;  
For Samuel Work and Anthony Cruik,  
A great big plumcake with plums all  
through it.

We hope Ford Milam and Harold Champeau  
Will have a Christmas that's go-go-go;  
That Douglas Crawford and Alan Trick  
Of all good goodies will have their pick  
That both Frank Ehman and Roger Euler  
Will have a Yuletide that couldn't be cooler.  
In short, and for long, may you have a ball,  
For we think you are fabulous, one and all.